

Kessler, Ellen

From: GJBJackson@aol.com
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 9:36 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects

Stephanie,

- I-199-003** | I read with dismay the point that Dairyland Power does not want to pay their portion of CapX and would like the taxpayers to cover the cost. I am very much against this tax burden. We are very much overburdened
- I-199-001** | with tax responsibilities now and forthcoming with the new administration. The forecasts of electric peak demand do not support the need for the CapX2020 ultra high voltage power line projects, including the La Crosse Project.
- I-199-004** | The environmental consequences of coal and coal pollution due to the La Crosse line will result in additional adverse impacts of the project. Other adverse affects are visual impacts in scenic corridors, health risks due to electro-magnetic fields, decline in property values, loss of prime agricultural land, risks to rare and endangered species, fragmentation of habitat in a national wildlife refuge, and bird mortality along the Mississippi
- I-199-002** | Flyway.Conservation, local generation and local transmission can solve any local reliability issues at a much lower cost to Rateplayers without damaging the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, Scenic Byways and other protected natural resources that would be impaired by the La Crosse Project and without providing transmission from distant coal plants.

Is this another rush and push for a project that has not been given adequate thought, consideration and validity to workable alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gloria Belzer

I-199-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-199-002

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-199-003

Your comment has been noted. Dairyland Power Cooperative, one of the CapX2020 utilities, has requested financial assistance from USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), for Dairyland's anticipated 11 percent ownership interest in the proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kilovolt transmission line project. RUS has determined that its funding of Dairyland's ownership interest is a federal action and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). RUS is the lead agency for both NEPA and Section 106 review.

I-199-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF, visual resources, socioeconomic issues including property values, rare species, and

agricultural resources will all be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.